

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 196682
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JHMORTON:VSS
APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ
EUR/SE:RCEWING
EUR:GSVEST
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

-----088089 040136Z /75

P R 032309Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196682

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT:GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS' CALL ON COUNSELOR
NIMETZ AUG 2

1. AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ ON
URGENT BASIS MORNING AUG 2. ALEXANDRAKIS RELAYED HIS DEEP
DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, COM-
POUNDED, HE SAID, BY THE FACT THAT THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT
DID NOT INCLUDE THE MAJOR POINTS WHICH HAD BEEN SPELLED
OUT IN THE AUG 1 MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS
TO THE PRESIDENT AND WHICH HE HAD STRESSED TO DEPUTY
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AUG 1. MOREOVER, THE AUG 1 STATE-
MENT BY THE PRESIDENT MADE NO REFERENCE TO PRESERVING THE
MILITARY BALANCE AMONG COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, A CARDINAL
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POINT FOR THE GREEKS.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NOTE
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL WHEN THE
BILL IS IN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, WITH THE HOPE THAT
THE FINAL VERSION WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO THE POINTS RAISED
IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. HE REALIZED THERE HAD
NOT BEEN TIME TO CONSIDER THESE POINTS BEFORE THE HOUSE
ADOPTED THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED

NIMETZ IF THE UNITED STATES FULLY RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE

OF THESE MATTERS TO THE GREEK SIDE AND IF THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO MAKE AN ACTIVE EFFORT TO MEET GREEK CONCERNS.

3. NIMETZ STATED THAT REFERENCE TO PRESERVING THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE REGION WAS INAPPROPRIATE IN THE BRIEF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ISSUED AUG 1. HOWEVER, SUCH LANGUAGE WAS IN THE SENATE VERSION AND THE ADMINISTRATION WAS PREPARED TO MAKE AN ACTIVE EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE GREEK CONCERNS IN THE ULTIMATE LANGUAGE OF THE BILL. BUT NIMETZ CAUTIONED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCREET IN THIS ENDEAVOR AS THIS WAS A CONGRESSIONAL PROCESS IN WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOT HAVE A DECISIVE ROLE.

4. NIMETZ SAID WE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET. MUCH WOULD ALSO DEPEND ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. NIMETZ WAS CONFIDENT THAT LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES SOUGHT BY THE GREEKS CORRESPONDING TO THE BYRD/MCGOVERN AMENDMENT WOULD EVENTUALLY EMERGE.

5. ALEXANDRAKIS ALSO SOUGHT NIMETZ' ASSURANCE THAT THE
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ADMINISTRATION DID INDEED INTEND TO "TURN A NEW PAGE", AND WOULD NOT SIMPLY REVERT TO POLICIES OF THE PAST. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO AN ACTIVE EFFORT ON CYPRUS AND TO WORKING WITH THE PARTIES IN THE AREA TO BRING ABOUT AN ERA OF STABILITY IN THE REGION. THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WAS A BEGINNING, NOT AN END.

6. ALEXANDRAKIS ALSO INDICATED GREEK CONCERN THAT THE WRIGHT AMENDMENT HAD APPARENTLY ELIMINATED THE DOLS 35 MILLION IN GRANT ASSISTANCE WHICH HAD BEEN PART OF THE BINGHAM AMENDMENT AS REPORTED OUT OF THE HIRC. THIS WAS A FURTHER DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE GREEKS AND REPRESENTED A STEP BACKWARDS. WHILE GREECE COULD UTILIZE THIS ASSISTANCE THIS WAS NOT THE POINT. THE PROVISION OF DOLS 35 MILLION BEYOND THE ADMINISTRATION'S FY 79 PROPOSALS WOULD BE EXCEEDINGLY USEFUL FOR PRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES AS THE KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT DEALT WITH THE DOMESTIC SITUATION IN THE POST-EMBARGO ERA.

7. EUR/SE DIRECTOR EWING STATED IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT DOLS 35 MILLION IN GRANT WAS STILL IN THE HOUSE BILL. ALTHOUGH IT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN A PART OF THE BINGHAM AMENDMENT, THE DOLS 35 MILLION GRANT ITEM HAD BEEN SEPARATED OUT OF SECTION 16 OF THE BILL WHEN IT WAS SENT FOR-

WARD FOR FLOOR CONSIDERATION. AS FAR AS WE WERE AWARE, IT

STILL EXISTED IN SECTION 7 OF THE BILL ALTHOUGH WE COULD NOT STATE ANYTHING CONCLUSIVELY SINCE THE HOUSE WAS STILL ON AUG 2 CONSIDERING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE LEGISLATION. NIMETZ PROMISED ALEXANDRAKIS THAT WE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WHEN WE WERE ABSOLUTELY SURE OF THE STATUS OF THE DOLS 35 MILLION IN GRANTS. HE RECALLED THAT THE SENATE VERSION PROVIDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 35 MILLION IN CREDITS.

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8. FYI. DEPT. HAS SINCE LEARNED THAT DOLS 35 MILLION IN GRANT 9AP FOR GREECE IS RPT IS INCLUDED IN HOUSE VERSION.
VANCE

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY: IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

S/S-O:KDSCOTT

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O 041855Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 9236

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196682

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 196682 SENT ACTION ATHENS INFO ANKARA,
NICOSIA 03 AUG 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 196682

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, TU, CY
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